

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method of operating an underground or inaccessible
object, said object including a sonde arranged to emit
5 signals having a plurality of non-orientation-dependent
characteristics, said method comprising the steps of;

applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving
at least one rotation step to said object;

detecting said rotation sequence;

10 wherein said detection of said rotation sequence causes
said sonde to change from the emission of a first signal
having a first non-orientation-dependent characteristic
to the emission of a second signal having a second non-
orientation-dependent characteristic.

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2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first
non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second
non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal
are a first carrier frequency and a second carrier

20 frequency respectively.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first
non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second
non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal
25 are a first data output sequence and a second data output
sequence respectively.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal

5 are a first data transfer rate and a second data transfer rate respectively.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second

10 non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal

are a first output power and a second output power respectively.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding

15 claims wherein said rotation sequence comprises a plurality of rotation steps.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein each rotation of said plurality of steps is completed within a

20 predetermined time limit.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said object is an underground boring tool.

25 9. Apparatus for operating an underground or inaccessible object, said apparatus including including;

a sonde for emitting a plurality of signals having predetermined non-orientation-dependent characteristics;

rotation means for applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to said

5 object;

detection means for detecting said predetermined rotation sequence; and

response means activated by said detection of said predetermined rotation sequence for causing said sonde to
10 change from the emission of a first signal having a first non-orientation-dependent characteristic to the emission of a second signal being a second non-orientation-dependent characteristic.

15 10. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said object is an underground boring tool and said detection means is a roll sensor.

11. A method of operating an underground or inaccessible
20 object including a sonde, said object being connected to an operator triggered drive means

said method comprising the steps of;

signalling from said drive means to said sonde, said signalling including the operator triggering said

25 operator triggered drive means to apply a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to

said object;

detecting said rotation sequence;

wherein said detection of said rotation sequence causes

said sonde to change from a first operation function to a

5 second operation function.

12. A method according claim 11 wherein said rotation
sequence comprises a plurality of rotation steps.

10 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein each rotation
of said plurality of steps is completed within a
predetermined time limit.

14. Apparatus for operating an underground or
15 inaccessible object including;

a sonde;

operator-triggered drive means connected to said
object for applying a predetermined rotation sequence
involving at least one rotation step to the object to
20 signal to said object in response to a trigger from the
operator;

detection means for detecting said rotation
sequence; and

response means activated by the detection of said
25 predetermined rotation sequence for causing said sonde to
change from a first operation function to a second

operation function.